

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SANA 01822 150734Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /079 W
-----150811Z 008775 /10

R 150600Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1225
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMCONSUL DJIBOUTI
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGIDISCIO
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANA 1822

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, YE, UR, SO, ET
SUBJECT: YEMENI VIEWS ON ETHIOPIA

1. DURING MAY 12 WAR COLLEGE CALLS, YEMENI OFFICVXWS
INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER ABD AL-GHANI AND
CHIEF-OF-STAFF AL-GHASHMI, FOREIGN MINISTER AL-ASNAJ AND
MINISTER F DEVELOPMEOZYWASINDWA ALL SPOKE IN VARYING
DEGREES ABOUT THE GROWING THREAT TO YEMEN OF A SOVIET
TAKEOVER IN ETHIOPIA AND THE NEED FOR THE ARAB STATES
TO TAKE ACTION IN THE FACE OF THIS THREAT. WHAT WAS SIGNI-
FICANT WAS THATSOR THE FIRST TIME YEMENI OFFICIALS WERE
OPENLY TALKING ABOUT YEMEN'S SUPPORT FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF AN INDEPENDENT ERITREA AS ONE WAY OF BRINGING ABOUT THE
EVENTUAL "DISINTEGRATION OF THE ETHIOPIAN EMPIRE." YEMENI
RATIONALIZATION FOR THE LATTER MOVE FOCUSED NOT ONLY ON
DENYING THE SOVIETS A NEW BASE OF OPERATIONS IN THE HORN
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OF AFRICA BUT ALSO ON WEANING AWAY SOMALIA FROM THE SOVIETS
BY GIVING IT THOSE PARTS OF THE ETHIOPIAN EMPIRE WHICH ARE

ETHNICALLY SOMALI. AL-ASNAJ EVEN WENT SO FAR AS TO SAY HE
HOPED ETHIOPIA WOULD ATTACK SOHKLIA BECAUSE THIS WOULD
ASSURE THAT SOMALIA WOULD TURN AGAINST THE SOVIETS.

2. COMMENT: A THEME OF GENUINE CONCERN ABOUT CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ETHIOPIA RAN THROUGH THE COMMENTS OF ALL YEMENIS VISITED BY THE WAR COLLEGE GROUP. THERE WAS ALSO A FEELING THAT "A CRISIS" IS BUILDING IN THE HORN AND THAT THE ARAB STATES IN THE REGION MUST BE PREPARED TO FACE THIS CRISIS OR ELSE FIND THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE MANAGED TO OUTWIT THEM BY PULLING TOGETHER ETHIOPIA, SOMALIA AND PDRY INTO A READICAL ALLIANCE, DESPITE THE EARLIER FAILURE OF CASTRO. IT WAS AS THOUGH ALL HAD BEEN GIVEN THE SAME BRIEFING AND IT MAY WELL BE THAT DURING AL-HAMDI'S RECENT ONE-DAY TRIP TO JIDDA THE YEMENIS OBTAINED SAUDI VIEWS ON THE SITUATION WHICH MAY NOW BE TAKING ON A STRONGER ANTI-ETHIOPIAN

COLORATION.
SCOTES

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 15-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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